Demand for a train between Manamadurai and Madras

2745. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a demand to run train between Manamadurai and Madras; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 175/176 Madras-Karaikudi Kamban Express is being extended to Manamadurai as an experimental measures.

Strengthening of narrow gauge line from Trichy to Pudukottai

2746. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to strengthen the narrow gauge line from Trichy to Pudukottai, Karaikudi, Manamadurai, Ramanathapuram and Rameswaram;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of this scheme; and

(c) the progress so far made in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) The line from Trichy to Rameswaram via Pudukkotai, Karaikkudi, Manamadurai and Ramanathapuram is a Metre Gauge line and not a Narrow Gauge line. The total length of the line is 259 Km of which track renewals on a length of about 91 Km are planned at an estimated cost of Rs. 10.46 crores. Out of the above length, track renewals on a length of about 52 Km has already been completed.

Unmanned railway crossings in Assam

2747. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any unmanned railway crossings in Assam; if so, the number thereof; and

(b) what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken by Government to man all these unmanned level crossings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) There are 620 unmanned level crossings, which exclude cattle/canal crossings.

(b) Manning of unmanned level crossings is undertaken on the basis of rail and road traffic density, visibility considerations etc., subject to availability of funds.

Girls' Sainik Schools in the country

2748. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of Girls' Sainik Schools in the country at present;

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a Girls' Sainik School in Assam; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) Sainik Schools Society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 which is under the administrative jurisdic-